

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

November 12, 2008; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM in the Conference Room at the General Services Department Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Councilor Bill Stetson, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Greg Banks, Mike Russell, Councilor Rob Werner

Staff: Chip Chesley, Vanessa Ghiden, Pat Winn, Bob McManus

Guests: Tom Aspell, Paul St. Hillaire, Mark Gelinas

Absent: Jeff Meyers, Paula Mattis, Melanie Doiron

Review and Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2008

Councilor Lemieux noted there was a spelling error with Mayor Bouley and approved the minutes with this correction. Councilor Keach seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2008

The committee read over the minutes and requested corrections/changes be made. Councilor Lemieux approved the minutes with requested changes and Councilor Keach seconded them. Councilor Blanchard expressed interest in having the committee vote to solidify decisions. Councilor Nyhan explained the progression of events. Councilor Stetson noted that the minutes should reflect the chair polled the committee members present at the October 28 meeting and that the majority of the committee members present supported Pay As You Throw. With the adoption of the minutes the committee supports Pay As You Throw with weekly recycling, and yard waste collection. The committee supports a need based program which is still being investigated by staff. So the committee has not yet decided how the needs based program will work. Although the committee has formalized its recommendation, City Council has not. It will not go to City Council until January meeting for February public hearing. This will give the committee and staff time to communicate and educate the residents about the program before the City Council has to vote. Councilor

Lemieux approved the minutes as revised by Councilor Stetson, Councilor Keach seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Communications

Bob McManus told the committee the Council's tax rate targets for the years since Fiscal Year 2004. They were below 4% for each year. He further advised that the current budget has a 5.4 % tax rate increase. Councilor Nyhan said the committee needs to formalize the message during today's meeting; the financial message and the "green" message. The one page summary will help. The committee will review the communication outlets and decide who will speak to what outlet. Greg Banks asked if businesses like in the Downtown District will participate in Pay As You Throw. Chip explained the services now and various members spoke to the changes. It was noted that if small businesses put out in Pay As You Throw bags then the General Services department might not need to continue to provide this service. Councilor Lemieux says the committee needs a PowerPoint presentation with flowcharts showing where money comes from and where it is goes. Councilor Nyhan says the City will see major changes with solid waste. Councilor Stetson wants one sheet with all the costs attached to each option so the committee can use it to explain to residents what the committee looked at and why recommendations were made. Chip reminds the committee that residents will have control over how much they pay for trash and the residents no longer pay for their neighbors. Councilor Keach thinks that the message should be framed as an economic issue as opposed to a "green" one. He does not think the committee should look like it is not demanding residents to recycle. He reminds the committee that many residents will argue that they can deduct property taxes from the federal income tax but cannot deduct the cost of bags. There is a question whether utilities can be deducted on federal income taxes. The committee remembers a committee member thought utilities may be deductible and will ask for clarification.

Tom Aspell listed what staff will have completed for the next meeting. Councilor Nyhan asked that committee members receive the items before the meeting date. Councilor Keach agreed with Councilor Blanchard's request to have a vote taken. He felt it would demonstrate to residents that the committee's recommendation was thoughtful and not necessarily unanimous.

The committee reviewed the communications information. The committee discussed how to best reach residents and the major stakeholders. The committee discussed how to use Concord Community Television (CCTV), The committee discussed presenting a forum in Council Chambers. The committee discussed how to enable residents to communicate their concerns and questions regarding Pay As You Throw through e-mail, phone or forum. Tom Aspell voiced a concern that November and December would be difficult to have a forum since residents are simply too busy with the holidays to participate. A CCTV show with an email address given to ask residents to send in their concerns. The

committee wants to be clear that this is a request for input and that the decision is not complete. The committee also wants to explain the impacts of not making a change.

The committee discussed the timeline with the following tentative dates:

- Various meetings with stakeholders will occur in November and December,
- Work with newspapers and CCTV during November and December.
- Set up a Committee public forum similar to the City Council public forums of the past on January 5th to enable residents to provide input.
- Submit a report to City Council from the Committee with its recommendation on January 12th.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2008 at 4:15PM. The communication subcommittee will meet on November 19th at noon. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.